

STAR WARS™ DOCTOR APHRA



WONG
CRESTA
ROSENBERG

MARVEL

1

Echo Base, Hoth.

FWSSSH H H H H H







WELL, SINCE YOU ASKED SO NICELY.

BZZZAP

AGHH!



YOU'RE LATE!

FOR A SECOND, I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T GOING TO MAKE THE RENDEZVOUS--

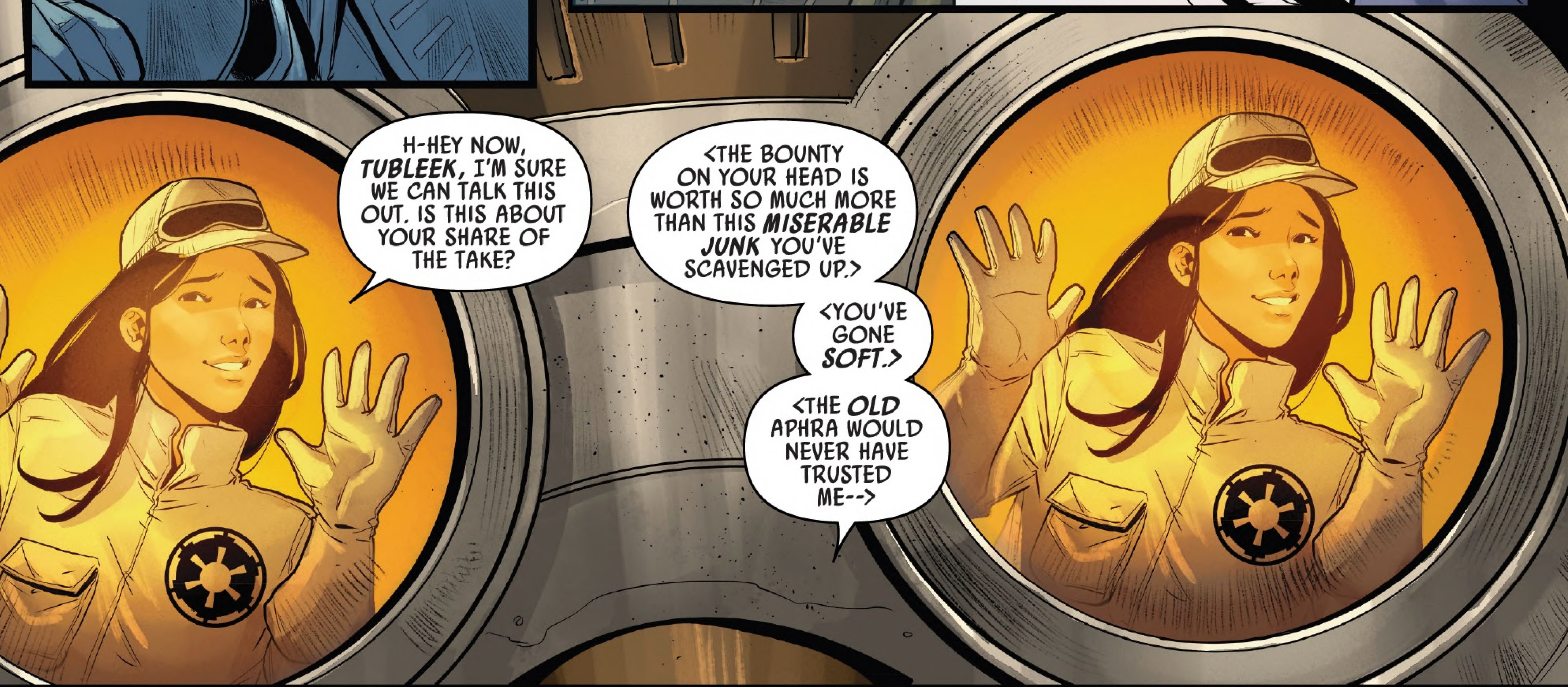


OH.

CLICK

<APHRA, YOU NEVER DISAPPOINT.>*

*TRANSLATED FROM KUBAZI.



H-HEY NOW, TUBLEEK, I'M SURE WE CAN TALK THIS OUT. IS THIS ABOUT YOUR SHARE OF THE TAKE?

<THE BOUNTY ON YOUR HEAD IS WORTH SO MUCH MORE THAN THIS MISERABLE JUNK YOU'VE SCAVENGED UP.>

<YOU'VE GONE SOFT.>

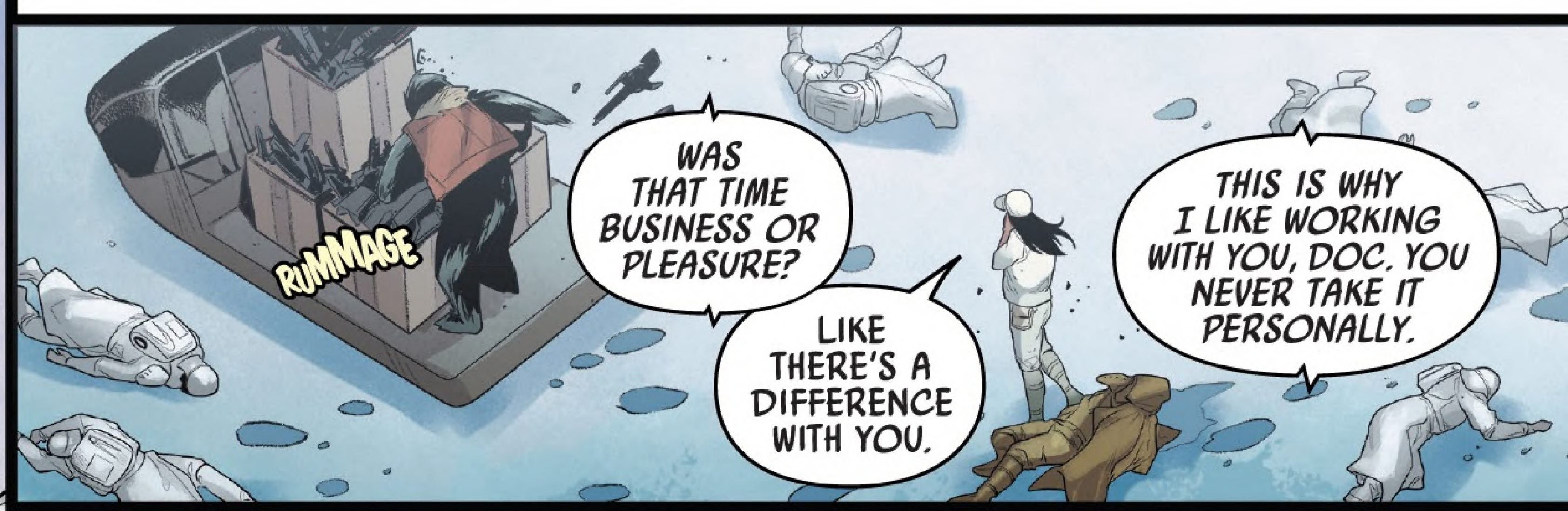
<THE OLD APHRA WOULD NEVER HAVE TRUSTED ME-->



MM, SO THAT'S THE THING.
I DIDN'T.



NICE SHOT, LUCKY.
NOW WE'RE EVEN FOR THE TIME YOU TRIED TO KILL ME ON QLINT.



WAS THAT TIME BUSINESS OR PLEASURE?
LIKE THERE'S A DIFFERENCE WITH YOU.

THIS IS WHY I LIKE WORKING WITH YOU, DOC. YOU NEVER TAKE IT PERSONALLY.



DOUBLE-CROSSING THE EMPIRE AND YOUR FRIENDS AT THE SAME TIME, THOUGH? THAT'S GUTSY.

I'M FULL OF GUTS.
AND I JUST FOUND US A NEAT LITTLE BONUS.



KSSSHHHHHHS

THUD

THUD



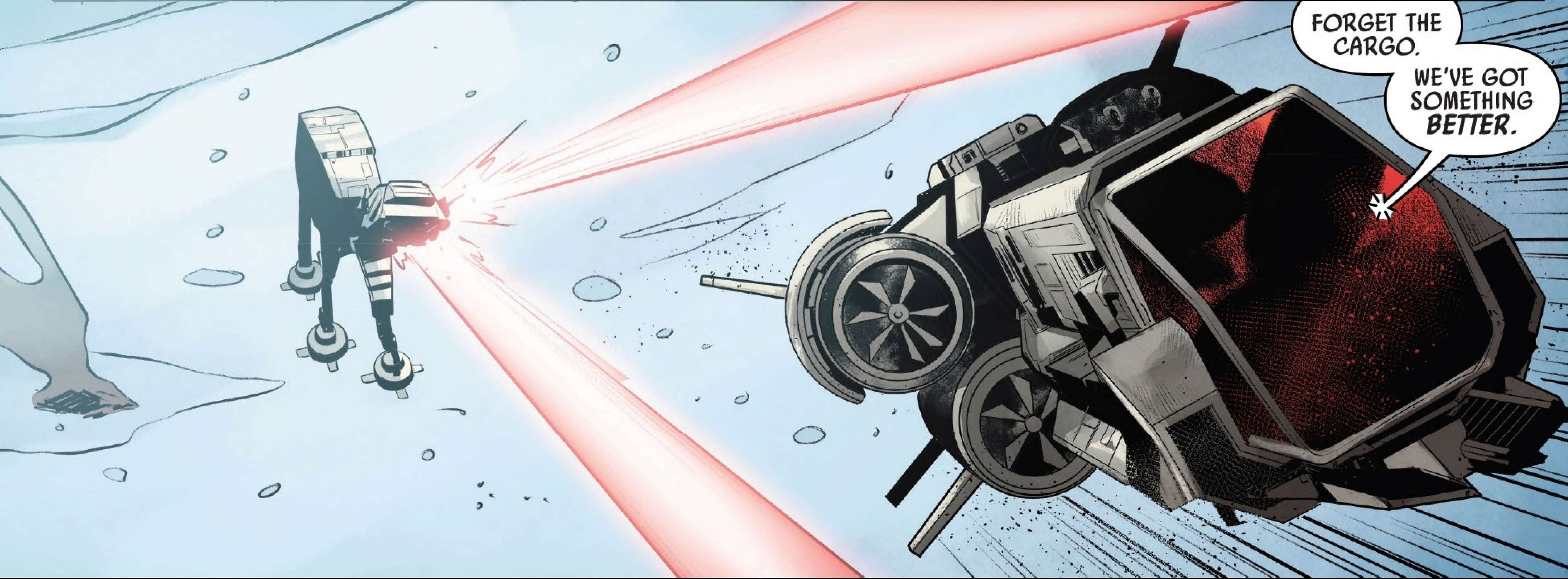
OH, THAT'S BIG.



KRRWRRR.



TIME TO GO!



STAR WARS

DOCTOR APHRA

FORTUNE AND FATE part 1 THE RINGS OF UAAACE

The heroic Rebel Alliance is scattered and on the run after their defeat by the Empire at the Battle of Hoth.

After narrowly escaping the vengeful Darth Vader and cutting all ties to her past, rogue archaeologist Doctor Chelli Aphra is back on the hunt for the rarest, most valuable treasures in the galaxy.

With Aphra's cunning intellect and flexible moral compass (plus a new, highly skilled team), the next huge payday is just around the corner. But there are some secrets in the dark corners of the galaxy that not even Doctor Aphra is prepared to uncover...

701107
11EVN11K0E7K



DOCTOR CHECCI APHRA

3K110
077NKAUKA



CHUCK KARSANTAN

7V11K
VK0



DETTA YAO

701107
V10N1K11K0E7K



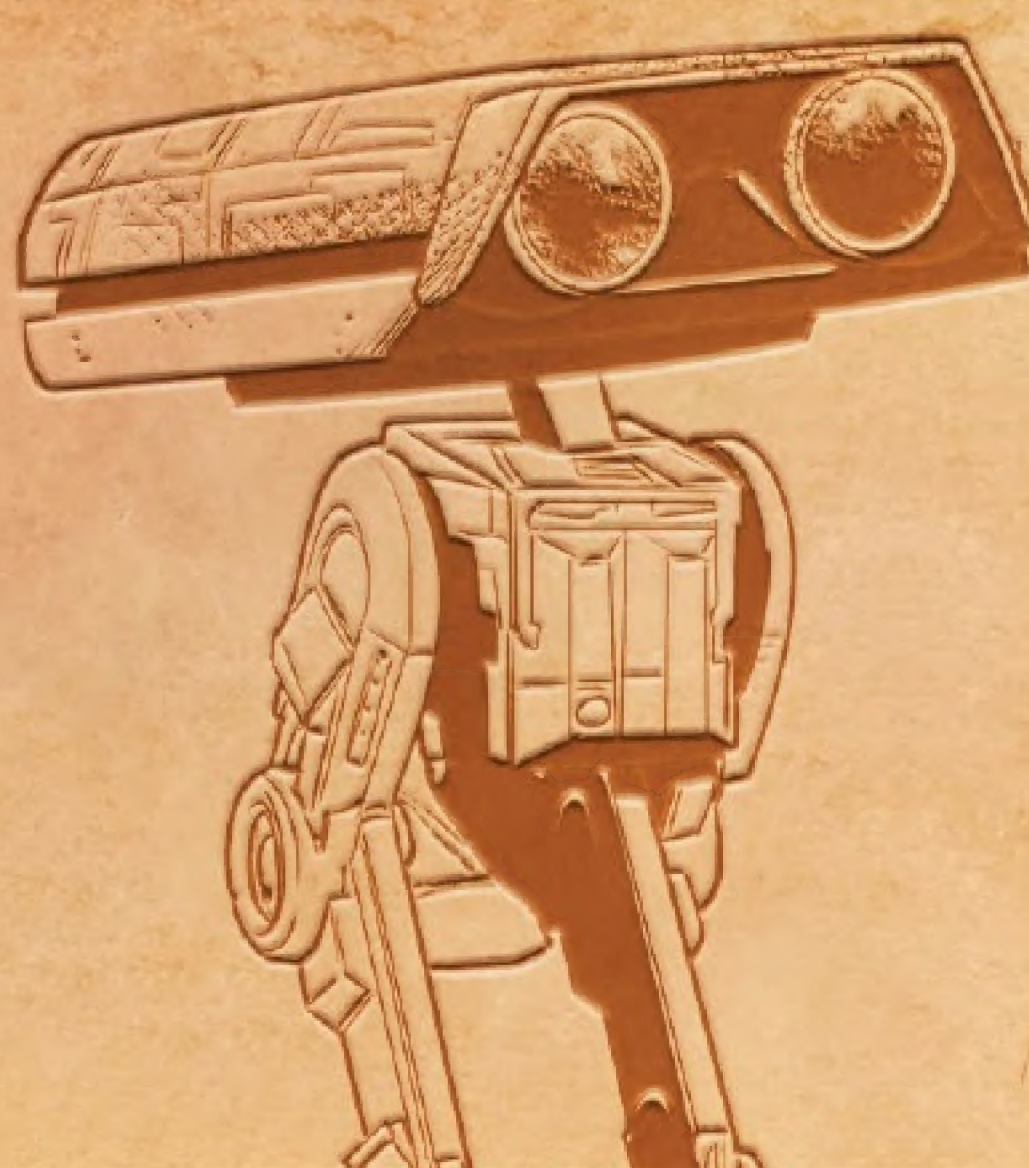
DOCTOR EUSTACIA OKKA

701107
VK0



JUST LUCKY

1K-418



TA-418

701107
VK0



RONEN TAGGE

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The Shadow University,
Outer Rim.

A GENUINE
FORK-NOSED
ICE WORM
FOSSIL!

IT IS
GENUINE,
MISS
APHRA?

ON MY
WORD AS A
DOCTOR,
YES.

I TRUST I'LL BE WELL
COMPENSATED FOR
THIS INCREDIBLY
RARE FIND, SAVA
ESTAT..

AHEM.
OF COURSE,
DOCTOR
APHRA.

I'LL SEND THE
CREDITS OVER
IMMEDIATELY.

THAT'S
WHAT I LIKE
TO HEAR.

HERE'S
TO GETTING
PAID!

RRRWWW!

FINALLY,
A DECENT
HAUL.

IT'S BEEN A ROUGH YEAR.
HARD ENOUGH TO MAKE
A LIVING WHEN **VADER**
DOESN'T WANT YOU DEAD,
AND WHEN HE DOES... WELL.

NO ONE'S HIRING. I CAN
BARELY COVER EXPENSES.
MY LUCK'S RUN OUT, AND
ALL OF THE PEOPLE I
LOVE ARE *OUT* OF MY LIFE.

VULAADA, MAGNA...
AFTER ALL THE
BETRAYALS, I CAN'T
SAY I BLAME THEM.

REALLY, IT'S
FOR THEIR OWN
GOOD.

I THINK THAT
ONE'S YOUR
TYPE.

BUT THE PROMISE
OF **MONEY** ALWAYS
BRINGS PEOPLE OUT
OF THE WOODWORK.

DOCTOR
APHRA! IT'S BEEN
FOREVER!



DO I KNOW YOU?

OH, SORRY! I'M DETTA. **DETTA YAO**. FOURTH YEAR GRAD STUDENT.

I ATTENDED YOUR GUEST LECTURE A FEW YEARS AGO, AND I'M A HUGE FAN OF YOUR WORK.

YOUR DISCOVERY OF **ABERSYN SYMBIOTES** ON **BOOTHII XII**, YOUR PIONEERING METHODS OF ARTIFACT RECOVERY... I JUST, **WOW**.

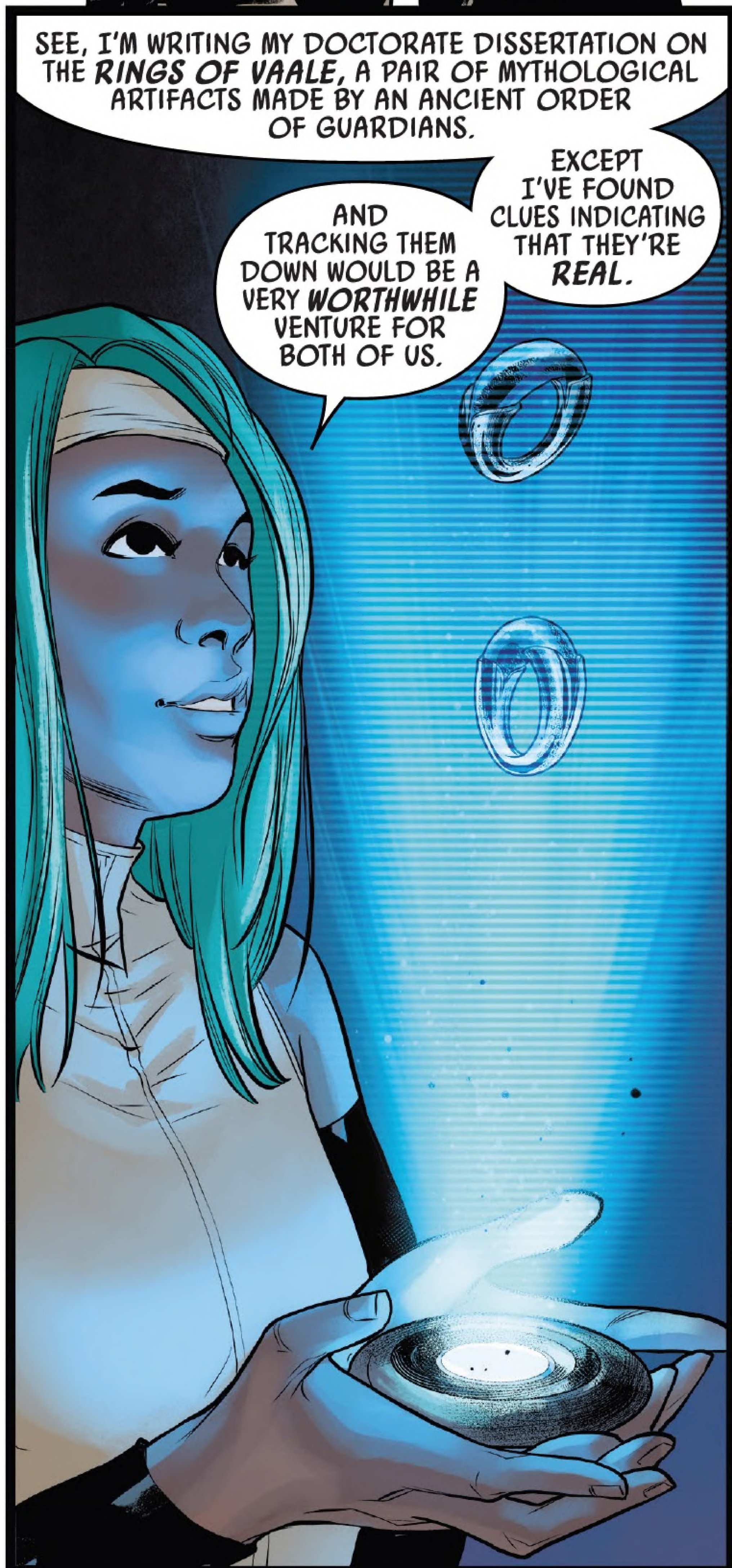


IT COMPLETELY CHANGED THE WAY I THOUGHT ABOUT FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY!

THE ROMANCE! THE ADVENTURE! THE DANGER!

YOU? TEACHING?

I OWED SOMEONE A FAVOR.



SEE, I'M WRITING MY DOCTORATE DISSERTATION ON THE **RINGS OF VAALE**, A PAIR OF MYTHOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS MADE BY AN ANCIENT ORDER OF GUARDIANS.

EXCEPT I'VE FOUND CLUES INDICATING THAT THEY'RE **REAL**.

AND TRACKING THEM DOWN WOULD BE A VERY **WORTHWHILE** VENTURE FOR BOTH OF US.

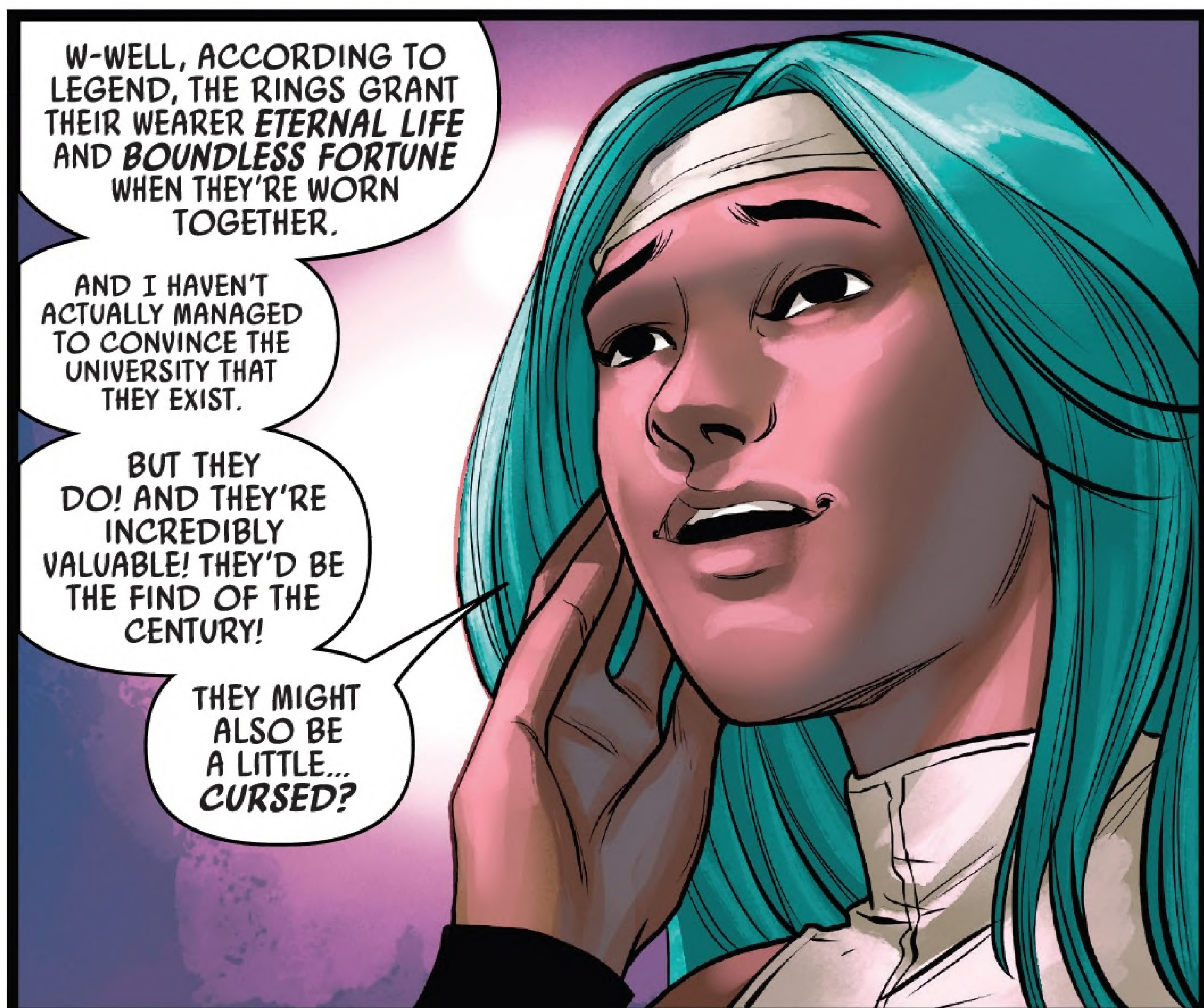


HEARD OF 'EM. WHAT'S THE CATCH?

HUH?

IF THESE THINGS EXIST, THEY'D BE PRICELESS.

SO WHERE'S YOUR UNIVERSITY-FUNDED EXPEDITION?



W-WELL, ACCORDING TO LEGEND, THE RINGS GRANT THEIR WEARER **ETERNAL LIFE** AND **BOUNDLESS FORTUNE** WHEN THEY'RE WORN TOGETHER.

AND I HAVEN'T ACTUALLY MANAGED TO CONVINCE THE UNIVERSITY THAT THEY EXIST.

BUT THEY DO! AND THEY'RE INCREDIBLY VALUABLE! THEY'D BE THE FIND OF THE CENTURY!

THEY MIGHT ALSO BE A LITTLE... **CURSED?**



OOH. HOW
CURSED,
EXACTLY?

DOESN'T
MATTER. *SUPERSTITION*
IS ONE OF THE FIRST
SECURITY SYSTEMS
EVER INVENTED.

THAT'S HOW
YOU KNOW IT'S THE
GOOD STUFF. IF YOU TELL
EVERYONE YOUR JEWELRY'S
CURSED, THEY'LL BE
TOO SCARED TO
STEAL IT.



BUT *I'M*
NOT.

THESE
THINGS SOUND
DODGY AS HELL.
STILL, MONEY'S
MONEY.

YOU
WRITE YOUR
DISSERTATION, THE
UNIVERSITY SHELLS OUT,
EVERYONE GOES
HOME HAPPY.



DEAL!



I HAVE SO
MUCH TO TELL
YOU, DOCTOR
APHRA...

YOU
THREE HAMMER
OUT THE
DETAILS.

SEE YOU IN
THE MORNING--
I'M OFF TO FIND
SOMEONE PRETTY
TO *CELEBRATE*
WITH.



THERE'S ONLY ONE OTHER
ACADEMIC WHO'S WRITTEN
ABOUT THE RINGS.

SHE'S
BRILLIANT. A
VISIONARY.

EVEN IF
THE UNIVERSITY
DOESN'T THINK
SO.

DOCTOR
EUSTACIA
OKKA.



SURELY YOU'VE
HEARD OF
HER?

EUSTACIA?

YEAH...

Ruins Of Kolkur, Outer Rim.

"I'D SAY I'M FAMILIAR."

A "NEW" SHIP, A NEW CREW...

...BUT SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE.

HEY, EUSTACIA.

APHRA?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

LEAVE ME BE.

YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?

WE WERE CLASSMATES A LONG TIME AGO.

THERE WAS A LOT GOING ON BACK THEN, BUT--

ISN'T THERE ALWAYS WITH YOU?

SPEAKING OF WHICH, HOW'S YOUR FATHER? YOU KNOW, THE *ETHICAL, RESPONSIBLE* ARCHAEOLOGIST IN THE APHRA FAMILY?

FINE.
HEY, TEEAY.

LOOK, I DIDN'T COME HERE TO PICK A FIGHT.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE RINGS OF VAALE, PROFESSOR OKKA.

YOUR ARTICLE IN THE SHADOW UNIVERSITY JOURNAL--

--WAS PUBLISHED RIGHT BEFORE THEY *EXPELLED* ME FOR "INSUFFICIENT CREDIBLE ACADEMIC RESEARCH."

TA-418.

AS I TOLD *RONEN TAGGE*, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN HELPING TREASURE HUNTERS FIND THE RINGS OF VAALE.



PERHAPS
WE CAN
PERSUADE YOU
OTHERWISE.



YOU'RE
BACK? YOU'RE
WASTING YOUR
TIME.

MR. TAGGE
DOESN'T TAKE
"NO" FOR AN
ANSWER.

YOU'RE
COMING
WITH US.



HEY! IT'S
BEEN A LONG
TIME, **KIEHART**.
AND YOU TOO,
VENTERS.

REMEMBER
WHEN WE ALL
WORKED THAT
JOB ON **FELUCIA**?
MAYBE WE CAN ALL
COOPERATE
HERE TOO.



STAY
OUT OF THIS,
APHRA.

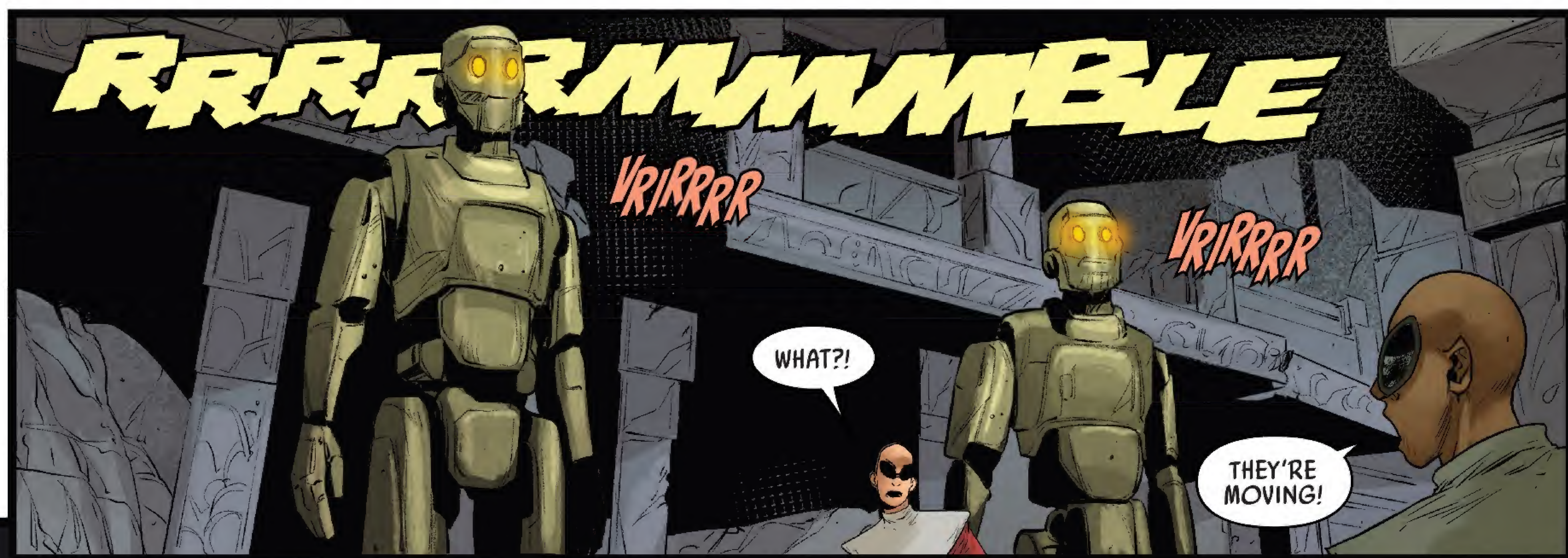
YOU
WOULDN'T
KNOW TEAMWORK
IF IT BIT YOU IN
THE FACE.



YOU'RE
RIGHT, I DO
HATE TO
SHARE.

KAZAAP!







KRRSHH!
KRRSHH!

AAAGH!

COME
ON!

Ark Angel III.

THAT WAS
CLOSE.

TAGGE'S
TRIED TO PERSUADE
ME A *FEW* TIMES,
BUT HE'S GOTTEN
INSISTENT.

YEAH,
THAT'S WHAT
HE DOES.

THE *TAGGES*
ARE ONE OF THE
EMPIRE'S WEALTHIEST
FAMILIES. THEY OWN
PLANETS.

RONEN'S A
SPOILED LITTLE
RICH BOY WHO'S ALWAYS
GOTTEN WHAT HE WANTED,
THANKS TO *AUNTIE*
DOMINA.

HE THINKS HE
CAN OWN YOU
IF HE THROWS
ENOUGH MONEY
AT YOU.

COURSE, EVENTUALLY
HE GETS TIRED OF
HIS PLAYTHINGS.
THEN HE KILLS THEM
JUST FOR FUN.

RONEN TAGGE IS SO UNSAVORY
THAT I WON'T DO BUSINESS
WITH HIM.

AND
THAT'S SAYING
SOMETHING.

DON'T
GET TANGLED
UP WITH HIM,
EUSTACIA.

I'D NEVER WORK
WITH THAT SMUG
ARISTOCRAT.

AND NOW,
BECAUSE OF HIM,
I CAN'T RETURN
TO THE RUINS I
WAS STUDYING
ON KOLKUR.

THAT'S
YEARS OF
RESEARCH LOST.



PROFESSOR OKKA...
I ADMIRE YOUR WORK
SO MUCH.

WHEN YOU
WERE STILL TEACHING
AT THE UNIVERSITY, IT
WAS MY **DREAM** TO
STUDY WITH YOU.



OH, SHE'S
GOOD.

ALMOST AS
GOOD AS I **WAS**
AT THAT AGE.

I...



LISTEN, I
KNOW WHAT IT'S
LIKE TO HAVE YOUR
CREDENTIALS
REVOKED.

BUT IF
YOU FIND THE
RINGS--WHICH NO
ONE BELIEVES EXIST--
THE SHADOW UNIVERSITY
WILL **HAVE** TO
REINSTATE YOU.

WE'LL GIVE
YOU **SOLE
CREDIT** FOR THE
DISCOVERY.



SOLE
CREDIT?

SOLE
CREDIT.

YOU GET
REINSTATED.
DETTA WRITES
HER THESIS. I
GET PAID.



...I'M
IN.

YESSS!

EVERY LEGEND ABOUT THE RINGS OF VAALE MENTIONS A **HAUNTED** CITY MADE OF LIVING STONE AND AN ANCIENT SECT DEDICATED TO GUARDING THEM.

BEFORE THE UNIVERSITY EXPELLED ME, I DISCOVERED THAT ALL RECORDS POINT TO THIS PLANET: **DIANTH** IN THE MALITORIS SYSTEM.

"AS DETTA HAS LIKELY EXPLAINED, THE RINGS ARE SAID TO BE CURSED.

"ACCORDING TO LEGEND, THAT CURSE IS SO POWERFUL THAT IT CORRUPTED **EVERYTHING** AROUND IT. THE CITY, THE AIR...THE REST OF THE PLANET.

"FEW EXPLORERS HAVE RETURNED FROM DIANTH. THE ONES WHO DID HAD GONE **MAD**. THEY SPOKE OF SEEING UNSPEAKABLE THINGS, OF HEARING AND **DOING** UNSPEAKABLE THINGS.

"THAT'S THE **POWER** OF THE CURSE."



AND YOU **BELIEVE** THAT?
COME ON, EUSTACIA.



THERE'S **ALWAYS** AN EXPLANATION FOR THESE THINGS.

MY DAD ONCE DRAGGED ME ACROSS THE GALAXY LOOKING FOR SIGNS OF THE ANCIENT ORDU ASPECTU, AND WE THOUGHT WE'D FOUND THE GHOST OF A JEDI.

TURNS OUT IT WAS JUST A COMPUTER PROGRAM THAT HAD **CONVINCED** ITSELF IT WAS A JEDI.

THAT ONE STANK.



OKAY, BUT, THE RINGS--

I'M NOT TELLING YOU THAT YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IN YOUR SPACE MAGIC.

BUT IN MY EXPERIENCE, **REAL PEOPLE** ARE MUCH MORE DANGEROUS.

COME ON, BLACK K, LET'S SET A COURSE FOR DIANTH.



SHE'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW.

FOLKS LIKE TAGGE DON'T UNDERSTAND LIMITS.

DEPLOYING THEIR PRIVATE ARMADAS, THROWING AWAY COUNTLESS LIVES...IT'S ALL A **GAME**. AND THEY'VE NEVER HAD TO DEAL WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.

TRUST ME...



Ronen Tagge's
Private Penthouse,
Canto Bight.

"...IT'S NOT THE
CURSE WE HAVE TO
WORRY ABOUT."

HMMM.

AN EMPIRE'S
GRACE. A BRUTAL
EXECUTION.

ONE OF YOUR FINEST
PIECES, COVIK, MADE
FROM PRECIOUS
BESKAR.

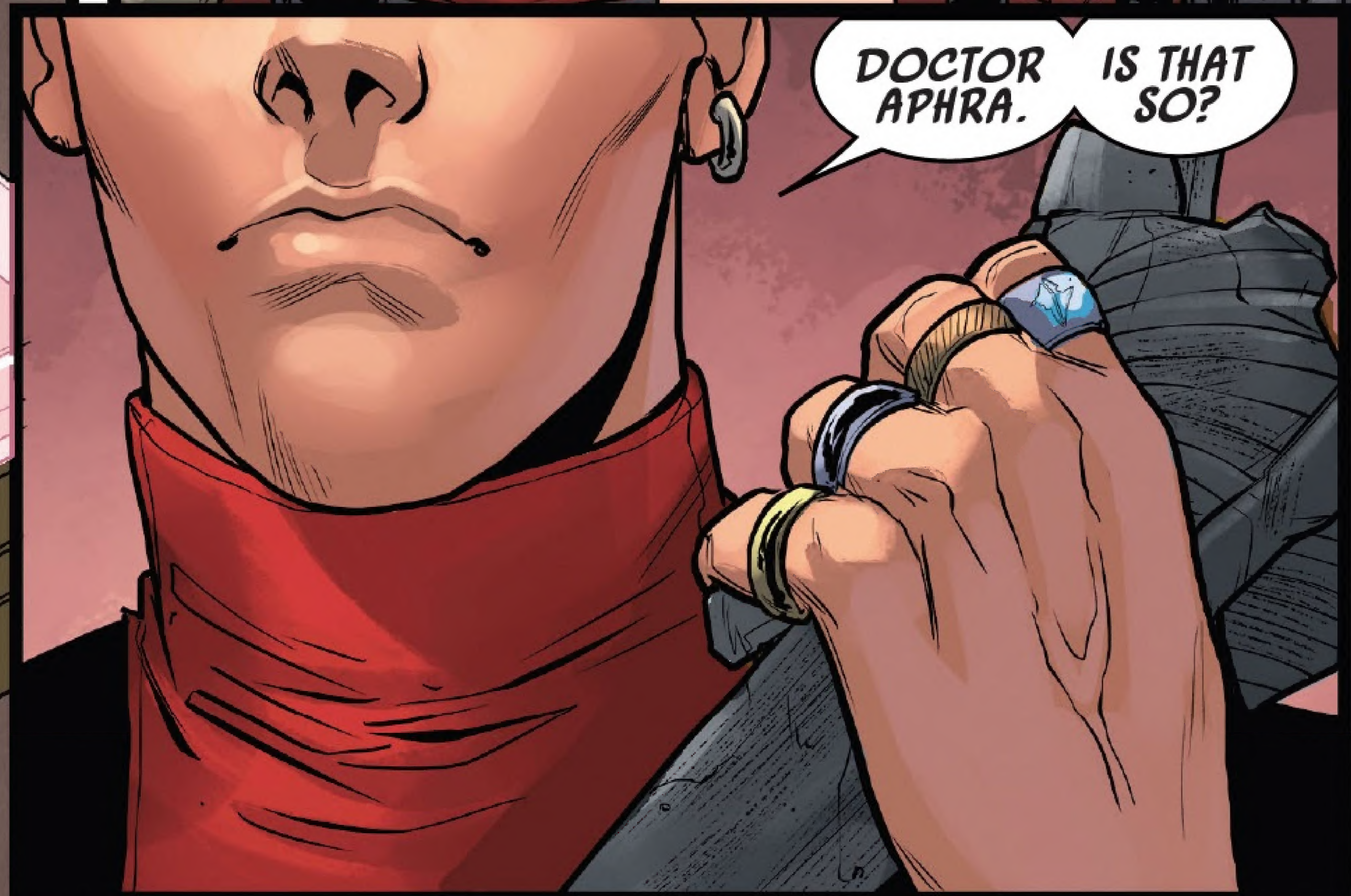
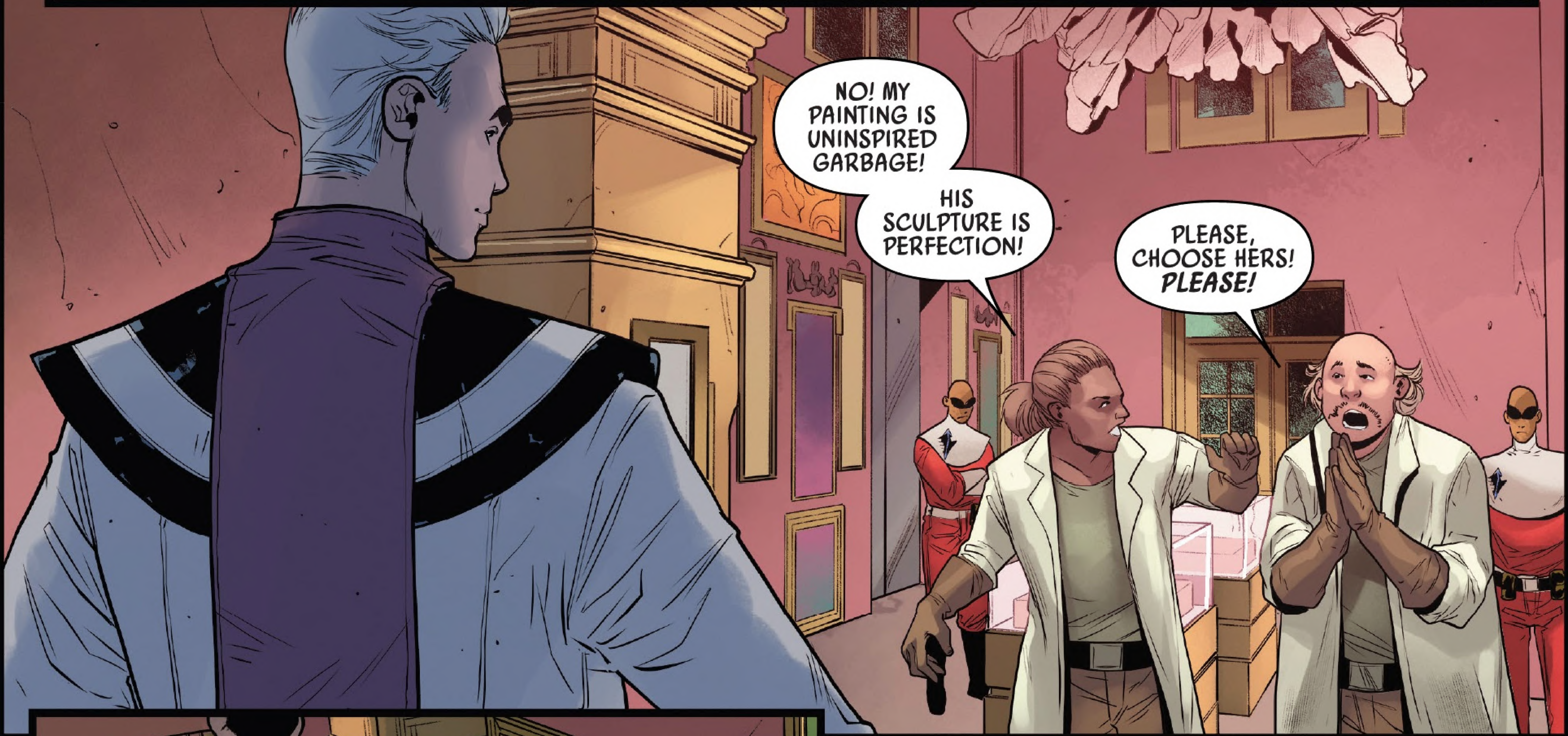
BUT SO IS YOUR
PAINTING, FALBER.
EXQUISITE.

BOTH
HAVE FETCHED
INCREDIBLE
PRICES ON THE
MARKET.

I PAID THE
PREVIOUS
OWNERS ENOUGH
TO BUY THEIR OWN
MOONS.

BUT I
BROUGHT YOU
TWO MASTERS HERE
TO ASK YOU A
QUESTION.

TELL ME,
WHICH PIECE
DO YOU BELIEVE
IS *SUPERIOR*?





I'VE DECIDED.

BRING BOTH OF THESE ARTISTS. AND THE PAINTING.



HOLDING A TRUE **MASTERPIECE**... THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE IT.

SIR, PLEASE...



BEEP

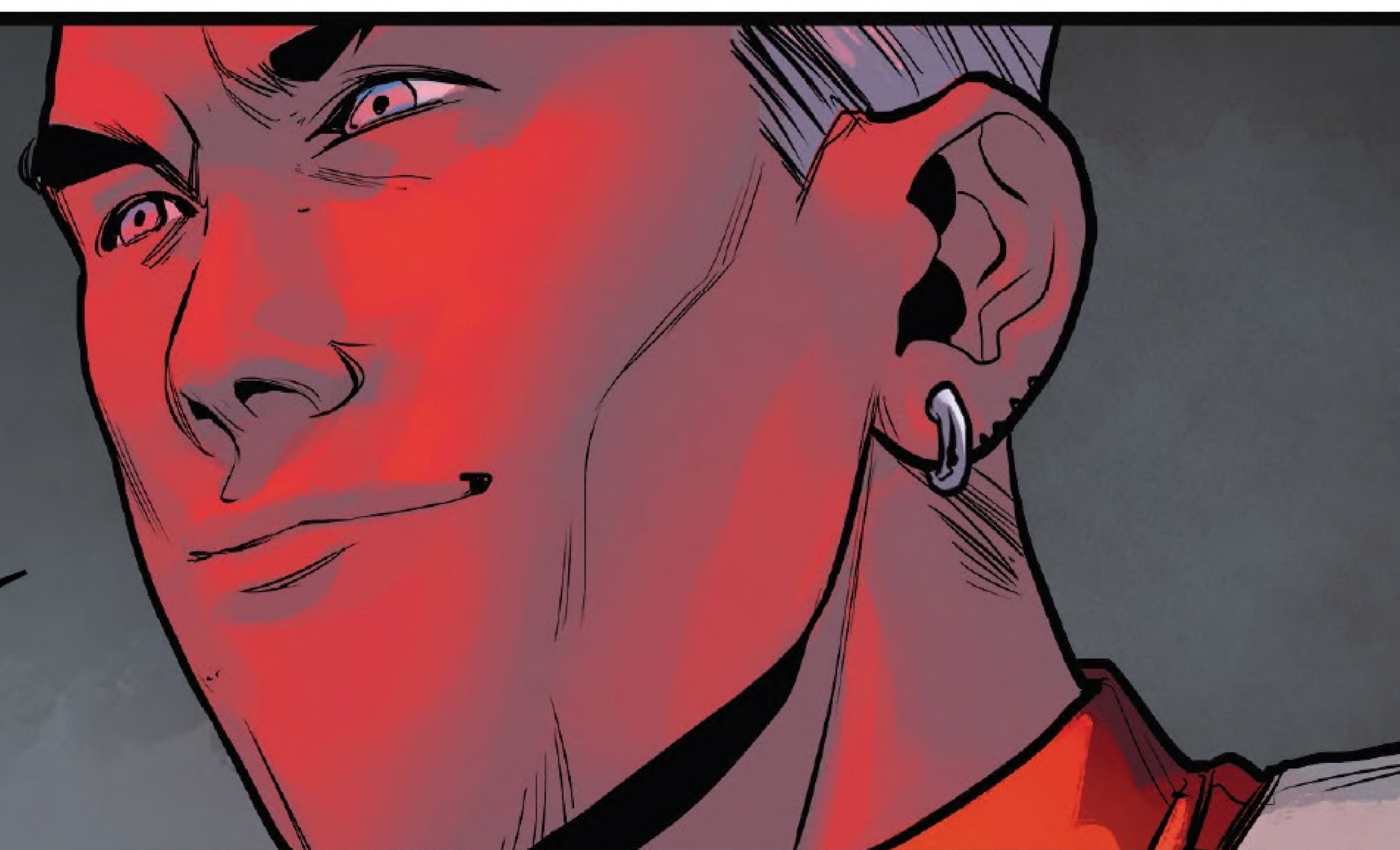
OWNING SOMETHING IRREPLACEABLE... SOMETHING TRULY UNIQUE...

IT'S A RUSH.

VHHHHMM

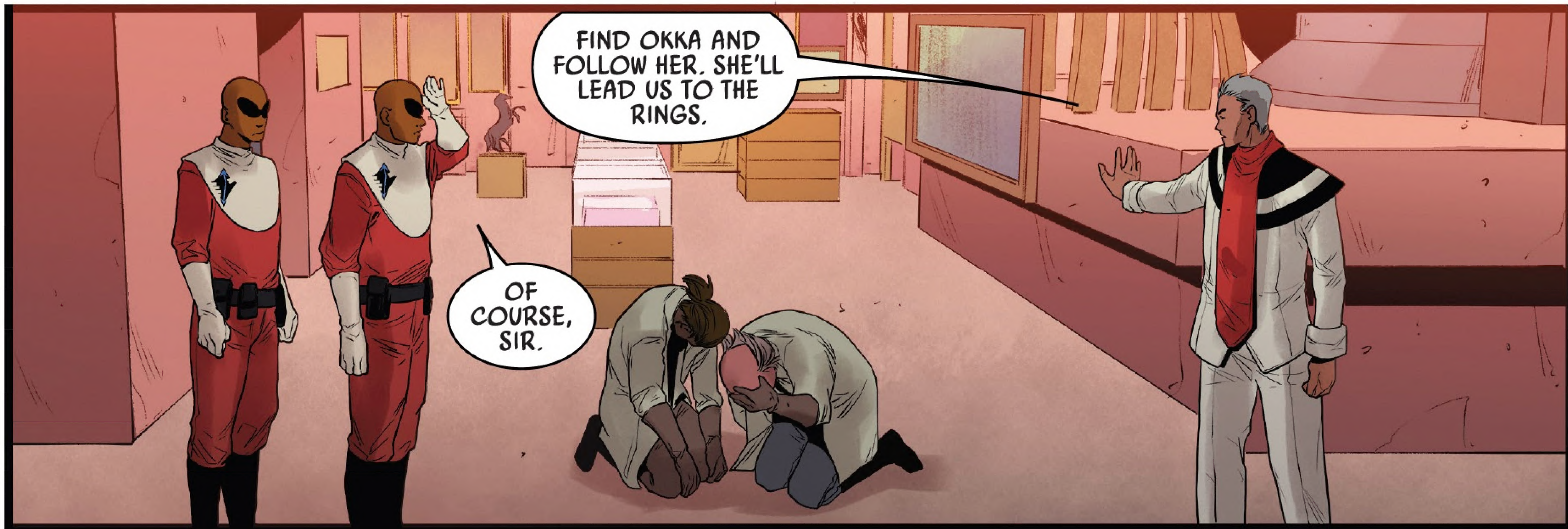
AND THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES MY BLOOD SING MORE THAN OWNING SOMETHING PRECIOUS...

...IS BEING THE LAST PERSON TO TOUCH IT.



WZZZAP

NOOO!



STAR WARSTM NEXT ISSUE!

DOCTOR APHRA #2

BY ALYSSA WONG
AND MARIKA CRESTA
VARIANT COVER BY SARA PICHELLI



APHRA AND HER TEAM
CONFRONT A TERROR NOT SEEN
IN THE GALAXY FOR EONS!
ENTER THE MAD CITY!

A LONG TIME AGO IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY IS A LOT EASIER TO
GET TO THAN YOU THINK! WRITE US AT STARWARS@MARVEL.COM
TO MAKE IT INTO A FUTURE LETTERS PAGE. MARK YOUR NOTES
"OKAY TO PRINT."

THE ADVENTURE
CONTINUES ACROSS THE
GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY!



BOUNTY HUNTERS #3
ON SALE NOW



DARTH VADER #3



STAR WARS #5